

Ag Video Conference Notes

August 20, 2008

9 a.m.

Present: Gene Tinker, Karen Grimes, Tom McCarthy, Jeremy Klatt, Eric Wiklund, Cindy Martens, Ken Hessenius, Paul Petitti, Dan Olson, Ted Petersen, Bob Palla, Randy Clark, Claire Hruby, Josh Sobaski

The next Ag Video Conference will be on September 17th at 9 a.m. Please mark your calendars and send topics to Cindy Martens or the representative from your office.

Low Disturbance-Plan writers are using low disturbance when running the RULSE2 calculations for the P-index. The only way they should be claiming this is if the manure toolbar is specifically labeled as Low Disturbance or if they are using an anhydrous sweep. Further discussion has come to the conclusion that low disturbance can vary from field to field depending upon weather conditions and how the equipment is operated. Deal with these on a case by case basis and turn to Barb Stewart at NRCS for a determination if needed. (Rolling disk cover is not a low disturbance method.)

Manure Application on Frozen Ground-If you get emails from Claire on this please review and comment, or if you have ideas for her please share them.

200 A for Cattle-Wayne G. spoke to the Dept. of Ag and they are issuing 200A licenses for open lot solid manure and bedded barn manure. Our rules allow for the selling of manure-200A for confinement facilities, but it is not allowed in the NMP open lot rules. Therefore they must still supply us with a NMP if they are open lot animals.

Changes to MMP during Construction Process: If you have a facility that needs to fix or change their MMP be sure that the changes are submitted to the County with a Co. Verification form being signed. This will then need to be added to the construction package and given to the Engineer that is reviewing the project.

Revision of Manure Nitrogen Regulations-It was suggested that the Department wait for a few months before proceeding with this change. By waiting ISU should have the PM1811 revised or a new document issued. The new regulations will not determine N application by yield goals. Research from ISU has proven that higher N application rates are not needed to achieve these higher yields and it results in N applications in excess of what is needed.

NPDES and New Regs-Karen is working on a fact sheet to help producers, commodity groups, Engineers and NMP/MMP writers understand who needs to submit a permit application for an NPDES permit by 12/31/08. This should be ready to go in September. If you want to help review this or write any portion of it, please email Karen G. If you get questions from the public or internally please forward those to Karen as well so that she can put together a FAQ section. This new law brings Iowa's regulations in line with the federal regulations which count animals together if the same types of animals are in different housing types. Ken will be proceeding with a plan of action on how to deal with this large number of new permits, what is expected in the December submission and how to deal with those facilities that may not submit an application. Bob P. will work with his staff to make sure the current forms will work for the new submissions and Jeremy K. will look at the NMP to make sure all the information is there to add confinement animals to the NMP.

It will be proposed that the confined animals be covered by the NMP if they are not already in an MMP. If the animals are already in an MMP then they don't need to be added to the NMP. (Example-600 head open lot dairy and 600 head confined dairy. 600 head already have an MMP, so don't need to be included in the NMP.) (300 head confined dairy and 700 head open lot dairy. The 300 head are not covered in an MMP, so they will need to be included in the NMP.)

Pasture Application-There was discussion about manure application on pasture ground. It was suggested that it did not matter how the grasses were harvested (either by mechanical means or by grazing animals) the N removal rates for grasses should be used. If they are claiming 100% application you should check to see how many animals may be grazing and what size of an area is being considered, taking into account the deposits left behind by the grazing animals. It was also suggested that you look at the fields visually to make sure that application can be done. Is the slope too steep? Are there

too many trees to allow for even application? If they are claiming injection be sure to check with the land owner to make sure they are aware that the pasture will be torn up.

Discussion was had regarding the EPC overturning two preliminary construction permits for sites in northwest Dallas County during its August meeting. They were overturned due to the impairment of the Raccoon River Watershed. The applicants have up to 30 days to file a lawsuit in district court to try and change the ruling. If you'd like more information you may contact Gene Tinker or see the article in the DM Register today 8/20/08.

Submitted by Cindy Martens